

Tellin' tales out of school

By TED BROWN

I think everyone likes to reminisce from time to time.

A few weeks back, the Esqueusing Historical Society met at the old Pinegrove School, situated on Five Sideroad, between the Ninth and Tenth lines of Halton Hills.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear few of the former students reminisce about school days at Pinegrove. I guess one could say they were telling tales out of school.

My mother, along with her brothers and sisters, attended Pinegrove School. Her family once lived down the Tenth Line, just north of Steeles Avenue, so I was mildly interested in attending the meeting.

Besides, our Norval correspondent, Kay Wilson, had been after me to drop by and take a few pictures. Everyone knows I can't say "No" to Kay, (including Kay.)

So when I found my work finished up a little earlier than expected, I decided to drop by for a picture; nothing more.

I sat at the back of the class-room, waiting for the right moment to interrupt and take the picture.

Spencer Wilson was telling a couple of anecdotes from his school days.

As I listened, I cast a look around the room.

Members of the Historical Society were sitting, listening intently as they absorbed these bits of local history, while former students sat with quiet smiles on their faces, probably the result of some pleasant recollections of school days of the past at Pinegrove.

I started listening to the stories. Alan Harrop recalled threshing at a nearby farm, where a rock went through the threshing machine, sparking on the cylinder, and caused a fire to start in the machine.

Being a windy day, the flames quickly blew into a full-fledged fire, and in less than 15 minutes, the house and nearby buildings were consumed by the flames, and the

family left homeless.

All that was saved was the piano, and some food off the kitchen table, (which the dog ate before anyone noticed.)

Another story was told about the old Broom sisters, a trio of spinsters who lived in the area. The teacher at Pinegrove School often boarded at their place, and I was almost reminded of "The Baldwin Sisters" from an episode of "The Waltons" with this story.

It seems during the winter months, the best sledding was done on Norval hill.

All winter long, the kids would congregate and slide down the hill, with one of them watching out for cars.

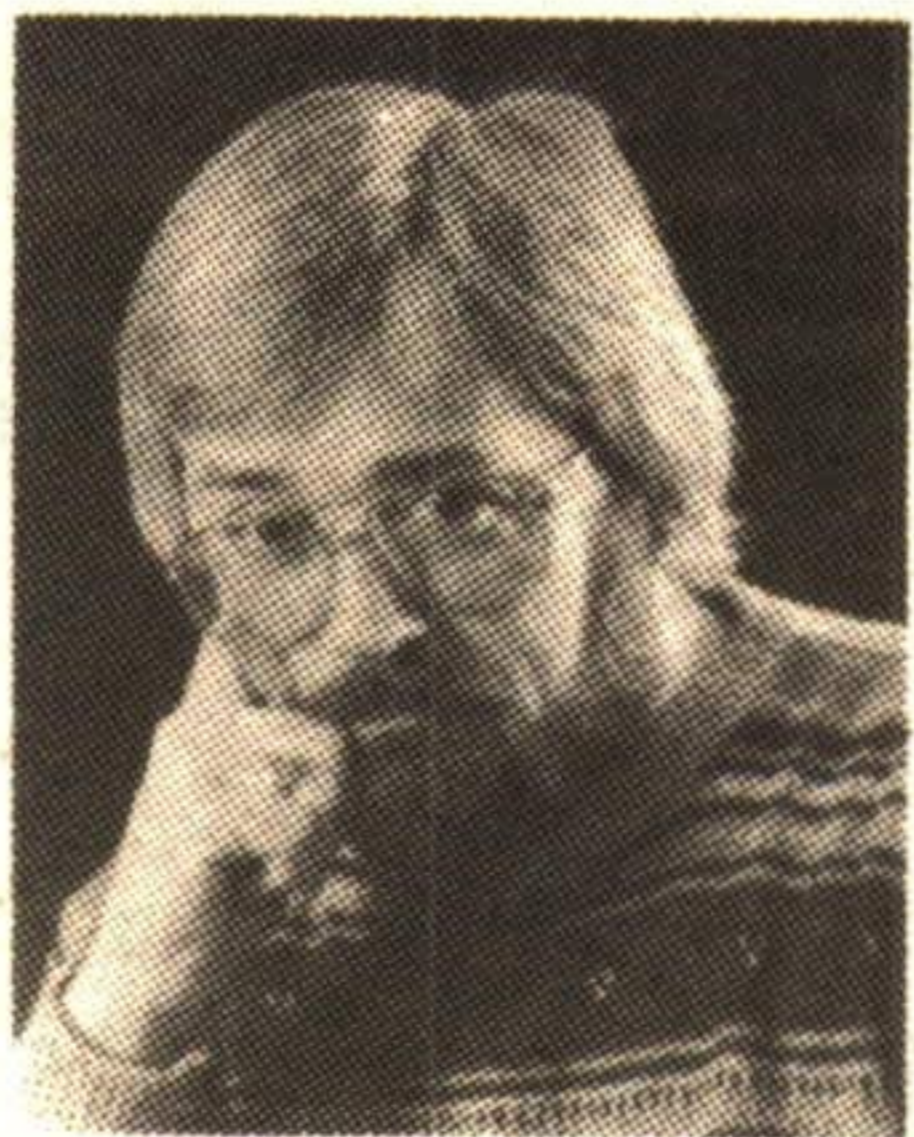
One day, as the kids were sledding, the Broom sisters drove by the group gathered at the top, and down the hill.

One young lady decided after they passed, it was safe to slide down the hill, so she pushed off on her sled, and down the hill, behind the Broom sisters' car.

Apparently, the Broom sisters didn't drive too fast, so it came as

A TED BIT

By TED BROWN



quite a surprise when the sled caught up with the car. The young lady ducked her head down, rode her sled under the back of the car, right out the front, and down the hill, beating the Broom car to the bottom.

She ran home before the sisters could find out who slid under their car, between the wheels.

Classic stories about walking to school in the winter, breaking up the crusty snow in front of the plow and talk of the activities around the school, like playing baseball, (and ultimately breaking a window!) all filled the conversations.

I quietly did a little reminiscing myself.

Years ago, I also attended a one room school, the old S.S.#9 Gibraltar, otherwise known as Limehouse School, on the Fifth Line, where it still stands, just south of the Limehouse Ballpark.

Fond memories of Christmas Concerts planned at the school, later performed to a packed house at the Limehouse Memorial Hall, and thoughts of going for nature hikes out behind the school, or playing "Annie, Annie over the Shanty" and climbing on the rocks behind the school, all came back to me.

It occurred to me; even though there were so many little one room schools around, they all shared a unique intimacy, one could never find in today's big multi-room centres of education.

It just isn't there anymore.

But after that night at Pinegrove, many memories are again alive and well, revived by both the tellers and listeners.

No doubt in my mind. Anyone attending that meeting is a little richer from those recollections.

I know I am.

GREEN THUMB GARDENING



By CHRISTINE COLE

DID YOU KNOW?

Pink Summersweet is a beautiful flowering shrub that is rarely grown in gardens in this area. Although it is very hardy in this region. From this one must suppose that most gardeners have not discovered this attractive shrub.

The common name: Pink Summersweet, explains many of this plant's characteristics. It has Pink flowers that bloom in the summer and are sweetly scented. The flowers are tall, slender spires (2 to 6 inches long) that are deep pink in bud and open to a 'soft' rose color. The flowers develop on the current seasons growth in July and last four to six weeks. The flowers are lovely to look at but they are just as enjoyable to smell. They perfume the air with a light, sweet scent.

Since the Pink Summersweet blooms on the current seasons growth it should be pruned in the spring before it leafs out (if done later in the season you may prune off the flower buds). This shrub is very adaptable. It can be planted in the sun or shade and can tolerate wet soils. However, it does require an acid soil. (To acidify soil add peat moss, sulphur or aluminum sulphate). In addition, Pink Summersweet is noted for being pest free.

Pink Summersweet will grow into a dense, glossy leaved shrub reaching a height of five to eight feet tall.

Each week Christine Cole of Tuitman's Garden Centre and Landscaping, Highway 25, 1 mile south of Acton, 853-2480, will be presenting helpful tips and information to assist you in creating your garden show-place!

TUITMAN'S GARDEN CENTRE
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Police beat

Hydro pole damaged

A knocked-over hydro pole was all that remained of an accident which took place sometime Saturday morning. A police officer arrived at 6:45 a.m. to find that the driver had taken the car away. The accident happened on the 6th Line 2.5 km north of Steeles Avenue, police said.

CB radios stolen

Two Citizen Band radios were stolen from two buses parked in a Laidlaw lot on Mountainview Rd. The radios are valued at \$2,400, police said. There was no sign of forced entry or damage and no suspects.

Room key taken

A man was charged with possession of stolen property after he left the Georgetown Motor Inn in Georgetown on Monday with the room key. The man paid for two nights and stayed for three, police said. He was arrested by Peel police, who found he was on probation for accommodation fraud and possession of stolen property.

Fishing gear stolen

A hatchback parked on John St. in Georgetown was broken into and \$800-worth of fishing gear stolen overnight Monday. The lock was damaged and will have to be replaced, police said. A tackle box, two fishing rods and two reels were taken.

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